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U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)

Lebanon – Complex Emergency

Information Bulletin #5, Fiscal Year (FY) 2006

July 25, 2006

Note: The last information bulletin was dated July 24, 2006.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- In the past 24 hours, conflict intensified in the towns of Maroun al Ras, Bint Jbeil, and Yarun, according to the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon.
- On July 25, two members of the U.S. Government (USG) Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) traveled to Beirut to meet with U.S. Ambassador Jeffrey Feltman at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut. The DART continues to work to gain extended access throughout Lebanon in order to perform humanitarian assessments and coordinate the provision of emergency relief supplies.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE - LEBANON		SOURCE
Dead	357	WHO ¹ - July 25, 2006
Injured	1,256	WHO - July 25, 2006
Displaced to Syria	150,000	WHO - July 24, 2006
Total Displaced Population	700,000	WHO - July 24, 2006
Total Affected Population	800,000	WHO - July 24, 2006

CURRENT SITUATION

- The conflict that began between the Israeli Defense Forces and Hezbollah on July 12 has spread to additional areas. Ongoing insecurity in Lebanon continues to prevent relief agencies from accurately assessing the growing number of people affected. As of July 25, WHO reported that 357 people have died and more than 1,256 people are injured as a result of ongoing violence in Lebanon. The conflict has affected an estimated 800,000 people, including internally displaced, individuals under siege, refugees, and asylum seekers. An estimated 700,000 people have fled their homes. Although the majority of displaced are staying with relatives and friends, an estimated 125,000 are staying in schools and public institutions in Lebanon, and 150,000 have crossed the border into Syria. According to international media reports, remaining residents in southern Lebanon cannot leave due to ongoing attacks and damaged infrastructure.

Logistics

- According to USAID/Lebanon and initial DART assessments, fuel is emerging as a critical need. Many organizations are beginning to ration fuel. Humanitarian actors will be unable to conduct assessments or provide assistance if the fuel shortage continues. Without fuel, water distribution systems, sewage treatment plants, and essential hospital systems will no longer function.

Humanitarian Activities

- As of July 25, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has two operational offices in Tyre and Marjayoun, in addition to a team in Beirut. On July 24, two ICRC trucks with family-sized food rations reached Tyre, and one truckload of medical supplies reached Marjayoun. According to ICRC, food stocks in many areas are running low, and water shortages are already affecting several villages in southern Lebanon due to the lack of electricity and fuel.
- On July 24, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) launched an operation to provide emergency food assistance to approximately 300,000 people. WFP is prioritizing assistance to the most vulnerable, including 95,000 displaced people living in schools and public institutions in Beirut, 65,000 in the hardest hit areas in southern Lebanon, and an estimated 50,000 of the 150,000 displaced to Syria. The first shipment of 25 metric tons of high energy biscuits arrived in Beirut from Brindisi, Italy, on July 23. WFP is currently distributing food in and around Beirut, and the first U.N. convoy is scheduled to travel to southern Lebanon on July 26.
- Relief agencies continue to work with Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) to establish a humanitarian corridor for ground delivery of humanitarian assistance. According to the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), ICRC in Tel Aviv reports that the lack of a unified map between Tyre and the Blue Line is slowing relief operations. ICRC is currently working to map coordinates between Tyre and Beirut.
- On July 24, the Israeli Embassy in Washington, D.C., announced that a procedure for coordination of ground humanitarian convoys has been established, and IDF approved the establishment of a permanent U.N. representative in

¹ U.N. World Health Organization

the Israeli coordination center. According to the Israeli Embassy, the U.N. will equip ground convoys with means of communications and location systems (GPS), in order to best coordinate convoy movements with the IDF. The USAID/DART will continue to monitor IDF and U.N. progress on the establishment of humanitarian corridors.

DART Activities

- On July 24, two DART operations liaison officers met a shipment of ten health kits, each of which is equipped with medicine and supplies to treat 10,000 people for three months, in Cyprus. The U.S. Military airlifted two of these health kits to Beirut on July 25. The U.S. Embassy has consigned both health kits to ICRC for delivery to affected populations in southern Lebanon. A third kit is scheduled for arrival in Beirut on July 26. The DART operations liaison officer continues to coordinate with the U.S. military's Combined Task Force (CTF 59) logistics personnel to arrange transport of USAID emergency health kits from Cyprus to Beirut.
- On July 25, DART operations liaison officers also received a shipment of 20,000 blankets and 1,000 tarps in Cyprus. USAID logistics officers are currently coordinating onward movement of these relief supplies to Beirut.
- On July 24, a USAID/OFDA representative arrived at U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) headquarters in Tampa, Florida, to serve as the humanitarian liaison to the U.S. Military for the duration of the Lebanon response.
- On July 25, DART members in Cyprus visited fairgrounds in Nicosia to observe a transit center that has hosted more than 8,000 American citizen evacuees during transit from Lebanon to the U.S.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- On July 25, U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Jeffrey Feltman declared a humanitarian emergency in Lebanon due to ongoing insecurity and humanitarian needs. During a visit to the region, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice authorized \$30 million in immediate USG humanitarian assistance to persons affected by conflict in Lebanon. Up to \$16 million of these funds will support the U.N. Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) for Lebanon. The USG will program additional assistance to other relief agencies based on upcoming humanitarian assessments.
- A DART arrived in the region on July 23. The DART includes a team leader as well as administrative, information, program, operations liaison, communications, and safety and security officers. The DART is performing assessments to determine priorities for USG humanitarian assistance.
- A Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team is supporting the DART and includes representatives from USAID/OFDA, USAID's Office of Food for Peace, USAID's Bureau for Asia and the Near East, USAID's Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs, and the U.S. Department of State's Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for the complex emergency in Lebanon can be found at www.interaction.org. Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in Lebanon may be available at www.reliefweb.org.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID: www.usaid.gov – Keyword: Donations
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int